

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-12. (CANCELLED)

13.(NEW) A decorative band intended for surrounding the periphery of a food packaging (40) which comprises a lateral annular wall (44) extending between a bottom (43) and an upper face (42), said band extending longitudinally between two ends (2) and having a first and a second longitudinal edge (3, 4), characterized in that it has at least one first portion (10, 11) extending longitudinally, which has a maximum width  $L_1$ , and at least one second portion (20, 21), which has a minimum width  $L_2$ , said minimum width  $L_2$  being between one third and two thirds of the maximum width  $L_1$ , and in that the first edge (3) is rectilinear and substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the band.

14.(NEW) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second edge (4) has a convex profile along the first portion (10, 11) and a concave profile along the second portion (20, 21), said convex profile being complementary to said concave profile.

15.(NEW) The band as claimed in either claim 13, wherein the second edge (4) has the profile of a continuous wavy line.

16.(NEW) The band as claimed in claim 13, wherein the maximum width  $L_1$  is substantially equal to the maximum height  $H$  of the lateral wall (44) of the food packaging (40)

17.(NEW) A strip of film material comprising printed designs (7), characterized in that the printed designs define, in the direction of the width of the strip (6), the contour of an even number of rows (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36) of bands as claimed in claim 14, said bands (1) being arranged such that the second edges (4) of the bands of two successive rows are adjacent, and such that the first edge (3) of the first row (31) and the first edge of the last row (36) are contiguous to the longitudinal edges of the strip (6)

18.(NEW) A food packaging having a lateral annular wall (40) extending between a bottom (43) and an upper face (42), characterized in that the periphery of the lateral wall is surrounded by a decorative band as claimed in claim 13.

19.(NEW) The food packaging as claimed in claim 18, wherein the lateral annular wall (44) has a cross section which is substantially in the shape of a rectangle with rounded corners, and in which at least one first portion (10) of maximum width  $L_1$  is arranged on a large side of the lateral wall of the packaging.

20.(NEW) A method for the production of bands as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that it comprises a step of cutting out the longitudinal edges (3, 4) of the bands, in which at least the cutting out of the second edge (4) of the bands is carried out by means of a device (50) comprising at least one movable laser beam, in such a way that the minimum width  $L_2$  of the bands is between one third and two thirds of the maximum width  $L_1$ , and the first edge (3) is rectilinear and substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the band.

21.(NEW) The method for the production of bands as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of cutting out the longitudinal edges is carried out in a strip of film material (6) as claimed in claim 5, which travels with respect to the laser cutting-out device (50) , the movements of the laser beam being synchronized with the travel of the strip.

22.(NEW) A method for the production of food packagings as claimed in claim 18, comprising a step of thermoforming the packagings (40) in molds (55), characterized in that it comprises a step of cutting out the longitudinal edges of the bands as claimed in claim 9, followed by a step of delivering the striplets thus obtained as far as the molds, and by a step of cutting out the ends (2) of the bands, which is carried out in the vicinity of the molds.

23.(NEW) A method for the production of food packagings as claimed in claim 19, comprising a step of thermoforming the packagings (40) in molds (55), characterized in that it comprises a step of cutting out the longitudinal edges of the bands as claimed in claim 9, followed by a step of delivering the striplets thus obtained as far as the molds, and by a step of cutting out the ends (2) of the bands, which is carried out in the vicinity of the molds.